AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A processor-implemented method of managing a persistent federated folder within a federated content management system that includes a plurality of heterogeneous federated datastores, the method comprising:

searching, from a local datastore, the plurality of heterogeneous federated datastores;

creating the persistent federated folder on the local federated datastore within the federated content management system;

wherein the persistent federated folder collectively saves federated search results from each of the respective heterogeneous federated datastores, to act as a container in a workflow process, and to act as a container for a set of objects with similar characteristics, and is further stored in a non-transient manner to permit data stored in the persistent federated folder to be queried with a federated query;

mapping the persistent federated folder includes a virtual entity mapped to a plurality of entities in the local federated datastores;

updating the persistent federated folder by modifying a members list, and updating attributes of the persistent federated folder; and

selectively deleting the persistent federated folder,

wherein deleting the persistent federated folder does not delete items referenced in the persistent federated folder.

2. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the members list comprises adding at least one new member.

3. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein modifying the members list comprises removing at least one member.

4. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising selecting items in the plurality of entities as a result of a search.

5. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising a user selecting items in the plurality of entities.

6. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising an application selecting items in the plurality of entities.

7. (original): The method of claim 4, further comprising saving a persistent identifier reference in the persistent federated folder for each of the items in the entities selected as a result of the search.

8. (original): The method of claim 5, further comprising saving a persistent identifier reference in the persistent federated folder for each of the items in the entities selected by the user.

9. (original): The method of claim 6, further comprising saving a persistent identifier reference in the persistent federated folder for each of the items in the entities selected by the application.

10. (canceled).

11. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder contains at least one persistent federated folder.

12. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from entities originating from heterogeneous datastores.

13. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from an entity of the persistent federated folder.

14. (original): The method in claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder integrates seamlessly within the federated content management system allowing a federated query to operate transparently with respect to a client.

15. (original): The method in claim 1, wherein the persistent federated folder system limits access rights of users according to users' general privileges.

16. (original): The method in claim 1, further comprising providing administrative support for creating, mapping, and administering the persistent federated folder.

17.-30. (canceled).

31. (previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the federated folder is defined using a query expression executable in the federated datastore.

32. (previously presented): The method of claim 31, wherein the query expression is executed by the federated datastore to materialize the content of the federated folder.

33. (new): A computer readable storage medium encoded with a computer program product for managing a persistent federated folder within a federated content management system that includes a plurality of heterogeneous federated datastores, the computer program product comprising:

a first set of instruction codes for searching, from a local federated datastore, the plurality of heterogeneous federated datastores;

a second set of instruction codes for creating the persistent federated folder on the local federated datastore within the federated content management system;

wherein the persistent federated folder collectively saves federated search results from each of the respective heterogeneous federated datastores, to act as a container in a workflow process, and to act as a container for a set of objects with similar characteristics, and is further stored in a non-transient manner to permit data stored in the persistent federated folder to be queried with a federated query;

a third set of instruction codes for mapping the persistent federated folder includes a virtual entity mapped to a plurality of entities in the local federated datastores;

a fourth set of instruction codes for updating the persistent federated folder by modifying a members list, and updating attributes of the persistent federated folder; and

a fifth set of instruction codes for selectively deleting the persistent federated folder.

wherein the fifth set of instruction codes does not delete items referenced in the persistent federated folder

34. (new): The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the third set of instruction codes modifies the members list by adding at least one new member.

35. (new): The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the third set of instruction codes modifies the members list by removing at least one member.

36. (new): The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from entities originating from heterogeneous datastores.

37. (new): The computer program product of claim 33, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from an entity of the persistent federated folder.

38. (new): The computer program product in claim 33, wherein the persistent federated folder system limits access rights of users according to users' general privileges.

39. (new): A processor-implemented system for managing a persistent federated folder within a federated content management system that includes a plurality of heterogeneous federated datastores, the system comprising:

means for searching, from a local datastore, the plurality heterogeneous federated datastores;

means for creating the persistent federated folder on the local federated datastore within the federated content management system;

wherein the persistent federated folder collective saves federated search results from each of the respective heterogeneous federated datastores, to act as a container in a workflow process, and to act as a container for a set of objects with similar characteristics, and is further stored in a non-transient manner to permit data stored in the persistent federated folder to be queried with a federated query;

means for mapping the persistent federated folder includes a virtual entity mapped to a plurality of entities in the local federated datastores;

means for updating the persistent federated folder by modifying a members list, and updating attributes of the persistent federated folder; and

means for selectively deleting the persistent federated folder.

wherein the means for deleting does not delete items referenced in the persistent federated folder

40. (new): The system of claim 39, wherein the means for updating modifies the members list by adding at least one new member.

41. (new): The system of claim 39, wherein the means for updating modifies the members list by removing at least one member.

42. (new): The system of claim 39, wherein the persistent federated folder contains members from entities originating from heterogeneous datastores.